Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Marine Reserves Working Group Meeting

Thursday, December 9,1999
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Marine Center Classroom (upstairs)
125 Harbor Way Santa Barbara, California

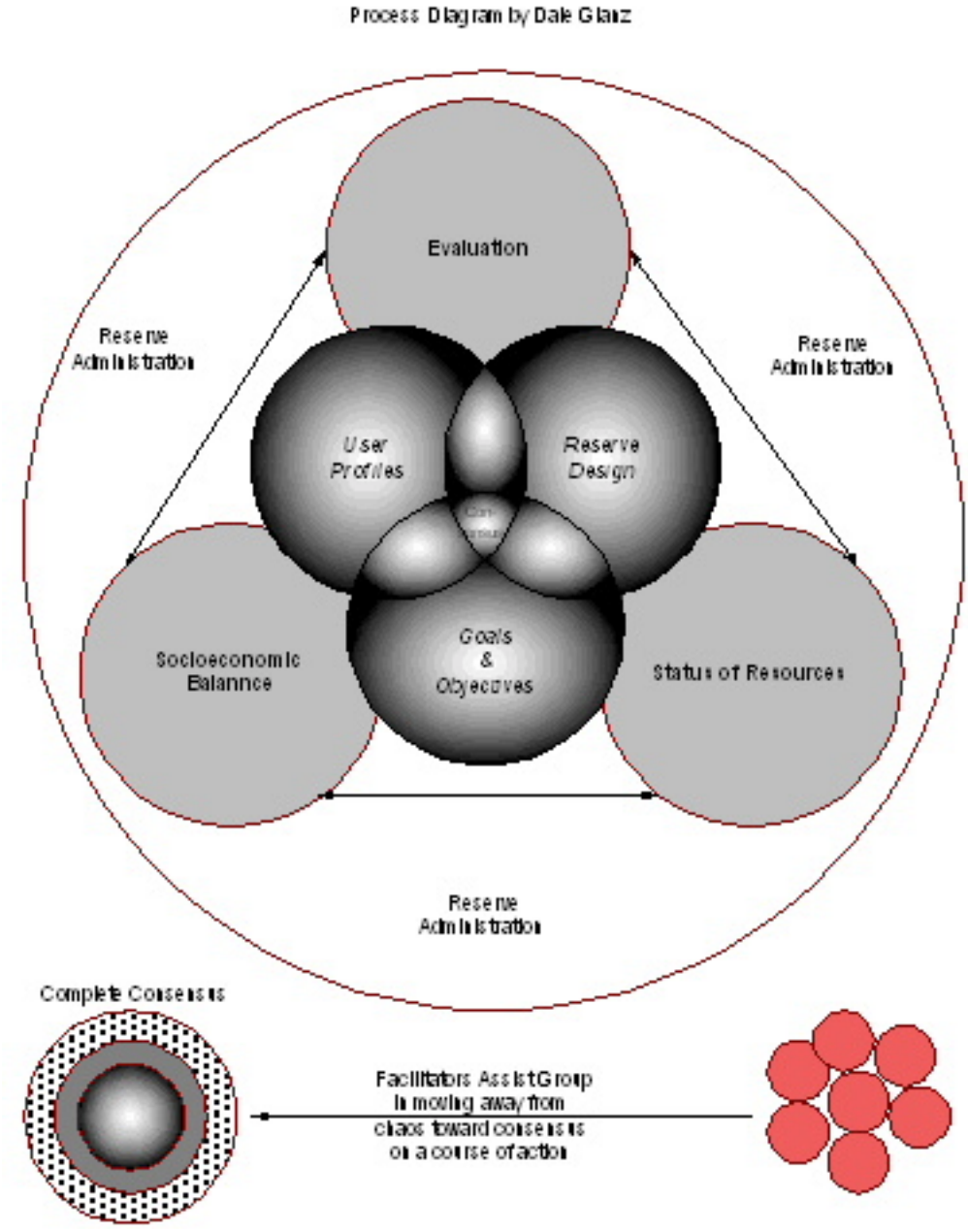
Meeting Summary

In Attendance:	
Patricia Wolf, Chair	Mark Helvie
Ed Cassano, Co-Chair	Deborah McArdle
Locky Brown	Michael McGinnis
Warner Chabot	Chris Miller
Marla Daily	Tom Raftican
Gary Davis	Steve Roberson
Robert Fletcher	Alicia Stratton
Craig Fusaro	
Dale Glanz	Michael Eng, Facilitator
Neil Guglielmo	John Jostes, Facilitator

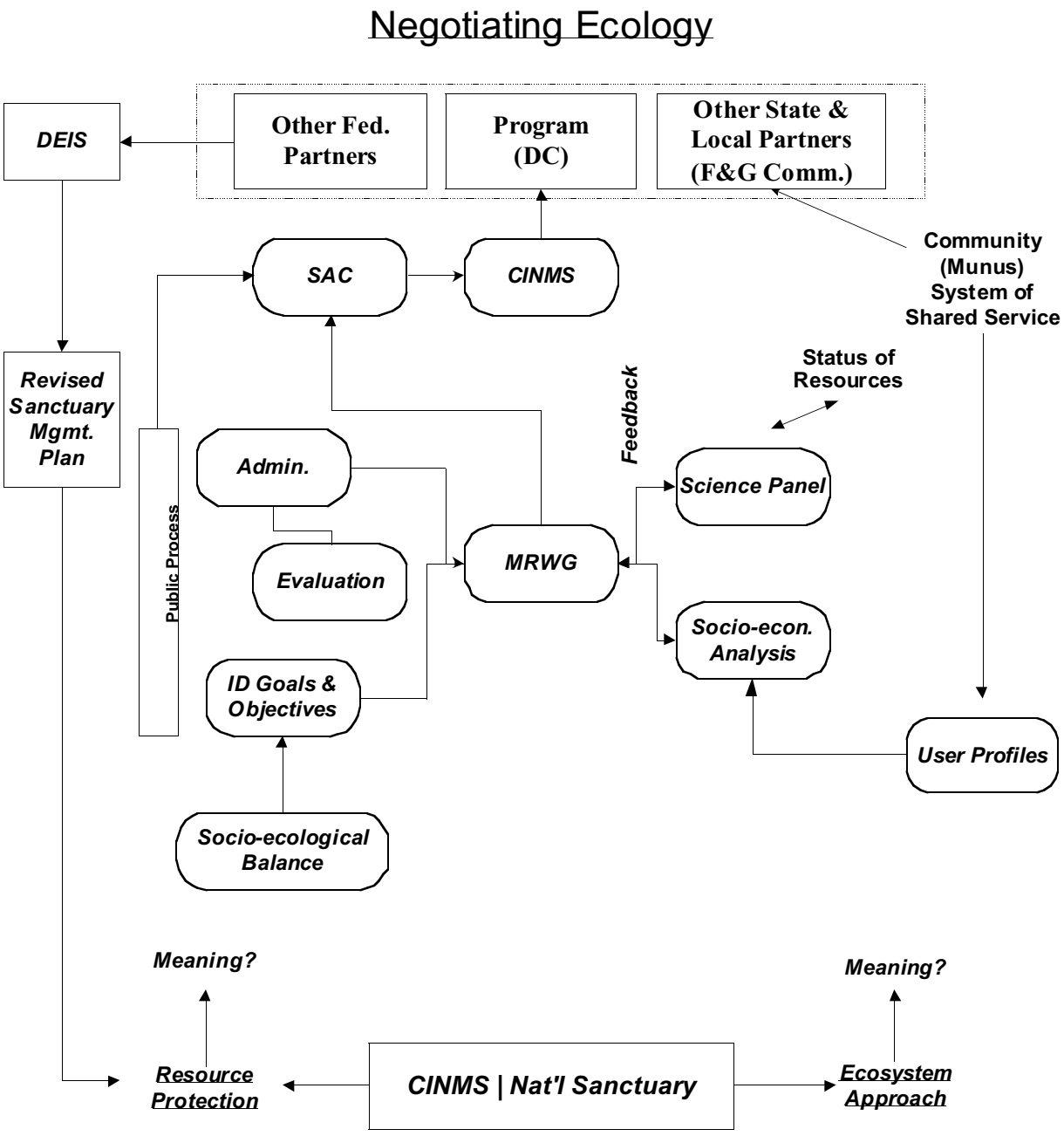
1. **Welcome and Introductions**: Co-Chairs Patty Wolf and Ed Cassano led the introductions of those present. Gary Davis introduced Dr. Rodrigo Bustamante, Head of Marine Research and Coastal Conservation from the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galapagos Islands. Mr. Bustamante wished the Working Group well in undertaking to develop a recommendation on Marine Reserves to the Sanctuary Advisory Council.
2. **Review of Agenda:** Facilitator John Jostes led the Working Group through a summary of the day's agenda, outlining what would be covered in the morning and afternoon sessions, and the time allocated to each item. He also offered an operational definition of goals as they relate to the MRWG's efforts to identify goals and objectives for use by the Science Panel.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Summary from October 21, 1999 Working Group Meeting:** John Jostes led the group in a review of the meeting summary of its October meeting and entertained comments and suggestions from those in attendance. Minor corrections and changes were offered with regard to references to presentations to be made at the December 9th meeting. The changes were accepted by a consensus of the Working Group.
4. **Presentations by Working Group Members on Relationships among Issues Identified at the November 10th Meeting:** Dale Glanz opened this agenda item with an overview of his perceptions of the relationships among the issues that were identified by the Working Group at the last meeting. He noted the interrelationships on the flip chart with two diagrams (see below). He noted that the greater degree of consensus the group could reach, the more overlap among the goals & objectives, user profiles, and reserve design. He also made the observation that the process was a fragile one that could be undermined by

misunderstandings and a lack of trust among the stakeholders. He concluded that evaluation was key to the success of a system of reserves.

5.



Mike McGinnis also provided a perspective on the relationships among issues identified at the November 10th meeting. His approach underscored the relationships among the various advisory and decision-making entities with responsibilities in the marine resource area (see below).



Priority Management Goals Should Drive the Process

Steven Roberson completed this topic with his perspective on the relationships. He underscored the following seven aspects:

I. Review the status of the resource including by way of illustration and not limitation, the status of marine life in the Channel Islands, including fish, abalone, lobster, sea urchins, kelp and other marine life.

II. Establish goals and objectives for marine reserves including protection of marine life within the reserves as well as whether reserves can increase marine life outside reserve areas.

III. Profiles of the various groups that use the Channel Islands and what areas of the Islands are used by each group.

IV. Reserve design including size and location.

V. Social/ecological balance including the cost and benefits of marine reserves.

VI. Reserve administration including enforcement

VII. Evaluation of reserves. Are they Working?

Members of the working group all expressed their support for the creativeness and insight of each member's presentation.

6. **Future Focus: What would an ideal marine reserve look like?** Working Group members were each given an opportunity to individually record the characteristics and attributes of an ideal marine reserve. Group members were then broken into small groups of 3-4, with each group representing a relatively homogeneous set of perspectives (regulators, users, conservation organizations, at large representatives, etc.). Each group was asked to develop five or six brief consensus-based descriptions of an ideal marine reserve to share with the Working Group as a whole. The participants then introduced their concepts to the working Group as a whole, based upon which item was easiest to identify, easiest to implement, most controversial, etc. After a thorough discussion of tradeoffs, similarities and unique attributes of the concepts presented, the resulting groupings emerged from the discussion:

<u>SUSTAINABILITY</u>

- § Sustain predator-prey relationships
- § Integrity of ecosystem is maintained
- § Large enough (Big) to protect against climate change
- § Resilient, self-sustaining; can "handle" natural and human perturbations
- § Large and numerous enough to restore depleted species
- § Cuyler to Wilson Rock (Upwelling, Northern Gyre Rockfish, birds, great whites, associated reef systems)
- § Support minimum viable populations and succession
- § Scientifically documented depressed stocks spawn and rear in area

<u>REPRESENTATIVE BIODIVERSITY</u>

- § Diverse representative habitats and species
- § Prisoner's Arch to Fry's (diving opportunity, aesthetic, culturally and historically, safety for public, associated reef systems, kelp)
- § Area includes habitat of concern; includes spawning and nursery for communities of concern
- § Created to protect a unique ecological habitat
- § Bio-geographical representation
- § Naturally functioning, pristine, productive, diverse

ONGOING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- § Integrate users in entire process
  - Design
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation
- § Self-enforced; user and community buy-in and support
- § We get to co-opt PEW Foundation funding for use by fisherman
- § Available and accessible for people to enjoy and appreciate

LINKAGES

- § Diverse, representative habitat types that are linked
- § Design to network, protect and enhance biodiversity
- § Linkages and connectivity
- § Biodiversity

EXTERNAL BENEFITS

- § Areas that produce and export larva, juvenile and/or adults of species of concern
- § Adjacent areas benefit from reserve-edge or spillover effect
- § Footprint (Pinnacles, associated reef systems, rock fish restoration, blue water, warm water - far reaching)
- § Enhance neighboring marine resources

COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

- § Administration:
  - Management
  - Enforcement
  - Research/Assessment
  - Public Information
  - Must have secure funding
- § Management must be coordinated at all levels

EVALUATION

- § Success and failure open to future evaluation - Use measurable results
- § Sufficient size to achieve measurable results

AESTHETIC VALUES

- § Wilderness aesthetic
- § No intrusive man made signs, buoys
- § You don't know it's there visually

INSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE

- § Insurance for future generations
- § Protect marine areas for intrinsic value and buffer future uncertainty

The group agreed by consensus that the above list represented an appropriate listing of attributes and characteristics of an ideal marine reserve, and would inform their development of goals and objectives later in the day.

7. **Overview of Goals and Objectives established by Federal and State Agencies, established Interest Groups and Others:** As a precursor to the Groups' discussion of goals and objectives, representatives of agencies and organizations provided an overview of the goals and objectives that had been developed. The following individuals made brief presentations:

   - § CINPS Perspective: Gary Davis
   - § CINMS Perspective: Ed Cassano
   - § CDFG/AB-993 Perspectives: Patty Wolf
   - § Commercial Fishermen's Perspective: Chris Miller
   - § Pacific Fishery Management Council Perspective: Bob Fletcher

   Working Group members followed the presentations with questions of clarification for each of the presenters.

7. **Developing Preliminary Goals and Objectives for Marine Reserves in theChannel Islands National Marine Sanctuary:** Following presentations from established agencies and organizations, the Working Group then broke into small heterogeneous groups to discuss specific goals and objectives that each of the small groups could agree upon. Five clusters of recommended goals and objectives emerged from these discussions, as noted below.

   Group 1: Achieved consensus on the four categories of goals and objectives established as policy of the Fish and Game Commission, with the additional goals (underscored below), and a re-ordering to convey priority. Wording adopted as follows:

   Ecosystem Biodiversity

   - § *To protect a portion of an ecosystem with all of its component parts.*
   - § *To protect unique or representative species or species assemblages.*
   - § *To insure genetic diversity and a stable stock structure for species of concern.*
   - § *To provide insurance against the catastrophic loss of a significant species or species assemblage.*

- *To protect linkages between living marine resources and habitats [from CINMS].*

Natural Heritage/Recreation

- *To protect unique or representative areas of marine life fish habitat for their intrinsic value.*
- *To protect unique or representative area of marine life habitat for their recreational values.*
- *To insure continued public ownership and access.*
- *To provide insurance against catastrophic loss of a significant portion of habitat.*
- *To provide a baseline for damage assessment of other areas.*
- *To provide and enhance opportunities for public enjoyment of natural and cultural marine resources [from MMA].*

Education/Research

- *To provide research areas undisturbed by human activities.*
- *To foster stewardship of living marine resources and habitats.*
- *To provide educational opportunities for schools, colleges, universities, and the public.*
- *To provide baseline areas or reference sites.*

Fisheries Management

- *To allow for recovery restoration, or enhancement of one or more species of concern.*
- *To provide for an undisturbed portion of a population of a species of concern.*
- *To provide for an undisturbed reproductive pool of selected species or species groups."*
- *Evaluate the effectiveness of reserves as a fishery management tool on both a long- and short-term basis.*
- *To enhance long term economic production over what would otherwise occur. [from PFMC]*
- *To provide insurance against fishery management uncertainties. [from PFMC]*
- *To assist in the recovery of depleted fisheries and maintenance of sustainability of fisheries outside of the reserve. [from CIMNS]*

Each Marine Ecological Reserve shall be selected on the basis of sound science, which shall be peer reviewed and promptly promulgated for public scrutiny and comment.

Group 2: Achieved consensus on the following set of goals and objectives:

- *Create a marine reserve to protect and increase native marine species.*
- *Create a marine reserve to protect and enhance marine habitat.*
- *Develop a marine reserve that combines local and scientific knowledge*

- *Create a marine reserve that utilizes scientific and socioeconomic information equally.*

Group 3: Achieved consensus on the following set of goals and objectives:

- *To potentially assist in the recovery of depleted fisheries and maintenance of the sustainability of fisheries outside of the reserve.*
- *To have diverse and important habitat to allow us to gauge ecosystem functions without extractive uses.*
- *Marine reserve protection for current and future generations.*

Group 4: Achieved consensus on the following set of goals and objectives:

- *Let's not lose any species*
- *Preserve unique areas.*
- *Preserve a minimum threshold number of representative ecosystems.*
- *Achieve long term economic productivity with the least short-term negative impact possible for all users while still meeting the major goals for marine reserves. [from Pacific Fisheries Management Council Reserve Committee Secondary Objectives]*

Group 5: Achieved consensus on the following goals with recognition that these will indirectly satisfy the four categories of goals and objectives established as policy of the Fish and Game Commission. Wording adopted as follows:

Fisheries Management

- *To allow for recovery restoration, or enhancement of one or more species of concern.*
- *To provide for an undisturbed portion of a population of a species of concern.*
- *To provide for an undisturbed reproductive pool of selected species or species groups.*
- *To enhance long-term production over what would otherwise occur. [from PFMC]*
- *To provide insurance against fisheries management uncertainties. [from PFMC]*
- *To assist in the recovery of depleted fisheries and maintenance of the sustainability of fisheries outside of reserves [from CINMS]*

The Working Group will refine these goals and objectives at their January 10, 2000 meeting into a single set for their collective use as well as use by the Science Panel and Socioeconomic Team.

8. **Developing a Preliminary Set of Questions for the Science Panel and Socioeconomic Team:** Using the major issue categories identified during the November meeting as a starting point (status of resources, socio-ecological balance, evaluation, reserve design, etc.), the Working Group initiated a discussion of questions for the Science Panel and the Socioeconomic Team to help address the informational needs of the Working Group and to help guide the presentations during the joint meeting in January. Regarding the issue of the "Status of Resources" the following questions were raised and adopted by a consensus of the Working Group as a "preliminary first cut" of questions for transmittal to the Science Panel:

STATUS OF RESOURCES

- § What is the status of Boccacio in the sanctuary?
- § What species are in trouble? What are the habitat requirements of their young of the year and spawning adults?
- § What level of information is needed on the status of resources to design an adequate reserve system that can meet both fishery and conservation goals?
- § What is the distribution of key species and habitats that provide ecosystem functionality at the Channel Islands?
- § What are the status and trends of kelp forests, sea grass and rock reef ecosystems in the sanctuary?
- § What fisheries are in balance and can sustain current or additional pressure?
- § What species and habitat occur in Sanctuary waters that are unique and relatively limited in geographical distribution?
- § Please map areas of high abundance, of important or vulnerable species, areas of high productivity and diversity and locations of important life stages such as spawning grounds, larval production and settlement areas?
- § What is the status of rockfish - where are they stable, where are they in trouble?
- § Can you determine the status of migratory fish in the Sanctuary and if so, how often are these surveys conducted?
- § How do you identify which species are in trouble and how do you determine which species are in need of evaluation?
- § What geographic area or areas best exemplify representative distribution of species and habitat within the Sanctuary?
- § What are historical trends of abundance of key fish species within the Sanctuary?
- § Please describe the character of ecosystem disturbance within and around the Sanctuary?
- § Has the sex and size ratio of targeted species changed, as well as abundance/catch, and what does this tell us about the status of resources?
- § What are the major factors and processes affecting the distribution and abundance of marine species in the CINMS?
- § What is meant by "key" species?
- § What resource issues are best addressed with marine reserves as a management tool?
- § Please evaluate the conclusions presented to the Fish and Game Commission by the National Park Service regarding the Anacapa Reserve and associated transect studies.

9. Other Matters: The Working Group did not have sufficient time remaining to discuss other matters and deferred an update from the Co-Chairs on the November 18, 1999 SAC meeting to the January 10th meeting.

- **Next Steps:** The Facilitators summarized the action items and provided an overview of the agenda for the January 10th -11th meetings and solicited feedback from the participants regarding the meeting and its accomplishments. Dr. Rodrigo Bustamante of the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands noted that he had been involved in a similar dialogue regarding marine reserves at the Galapagos Islands. He suggested that the Working Group keep several things in mind as it seeks to develop a consensus recommendation: 1) It is important to keep good notes of the proceedings as they go along so that everyone's recommendations and intentions are clear. 2) It is very important to focus on implementation and administration once reserves are designated - if the agencies are not committed to following through on the recommendations, they will not be successful in achieving the desired results. 3) Their group drew "lines on a map" early in the process - something that caused significant problems in reaching consensus because people broke into factions and polarized the discussions.

  The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.